

From: Christopher C. Stump
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/6/01 2:28pm
Subject: microsoft settlement

Dear DOJ,

Please put a stop to the Microsoft empire! The recent settlement in which MS has to provide computer equipment to some of the nation's poorest schools is a total sham. They need to provide \$1 billion in computer equipment, which includes software, and MS sets the price on the majority of that software?!?! That is ridiculous. You are allowing the crooks to dictate their own punishment. Furthermore, the computer software and hardware will be obsolete in a few years (5 maybe less), then what? Those schools have to pay MS to upgrade their operating systems and come up with extra cash to buy new hardware just to keep up-to-date the computer labs that MS so graciously endowed them with?!? Come on, please slap this monopoly in its heart and break it apart!

One last point as to why this settlement is bogus: The current operations of Microsoft with its introduction of .NET technology & its new line of operating systems (XP) which provide tight integration with the MS website are far worse offenses than why they were brought into court in the first place. If you thought integration of Internet Explorer with Win98/NT was a bad idea, what about the fact that so many applications/services of XP are only compatible with other MS products? That nearly everything in the web browser defaults you to a MS site? That MS products offer zero compatibility with Apple, Sun, HP, Red Hat, etc. software, while all these other companies strive to make software with compatible standards? You already know that MS has a history of bad business practices, and what they are doing now is the worst!

Please seriously consider prosecuting MS again for its newest offenses and reevaluating the most recent settlement. The offer by Red Hat, Inc. to provide open source software with the hardware that MS buys is reasonable. This move would encourage competition between MS and Linux and would lessen the impact of Microsoft being able to dictate the number of computers/OSs that come out of its \$1 billion settlement (although it wouldn't end the chaos because MS has companies like Dell, Compaq, and HP in its pocket). My opinion: If you're not going to hit this monopoly any harder than the current settlement, then make MS buy Sun SPARC machines and load them with Red Hat Linux to give to the schools :) That would at least embarrass the corporate giant.

One last note: Please do not let corporate America (MS) control our country's legal system. From this settlement that is the impression I, and many others, are getting.

Sincerely,

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